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THE OREDIGGER

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Courtesy Wikipedia

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Courtesy Wikipedia



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Volume 87, Issue 14

THE VOICE OF THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES, A SUPERIOR EDUCATION IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

April 18, 2007

MASSACRE AT VA TECH



Courtesy www.wikipedia.com

A look at Norris Hall, the building on the Virginia Tech campus where 31 of the 33 murders (including the gunman's death) occurred. The rampage began at 7:15 am EST at a dormitory across campus. Two hours later, the gunman attacked a classroom in Norris Hall.

Changes To Voting Methods

Mike Stone
Staff Writer

This Thursday, the Student Council will hear arguments regarding a new fee that will be used for Academic Facilities Construction. The exact amount of the fee is undetermined currently. As envisioned it could reach \$270 per semester phased in over a few years.

Previously, for a new fee to be implemented, the entire student body has to vote on it. Under the new policy that is pending Board of Trustees approval, fee approval for all "academic construction" will be decided by Student Council. It is important to remember the change only applies to academic construction projects. Not fees like the Inter-model Transportation fee that was approved at the end of last month.

The reason that the school is having Student Council decide on the

new fee and not the entire student body is that The Colorado Commission on Higher Education recently changed some of its policies and, as a result, so has Board of Trustees. Dr. Scoggins, the new President of the Colorado School of Mines, has been very adamant on speeding up some current projects.. Casey Morse, President of ASCSM, said that Dr. Scoggins is, "excited about expanding the school and is really pushing for this perfect window of opportunity."

Right now, the school would like to increase the amount of general use classroom and teaching laboratory space available to the students. Different projects been proposed to provide for this additional

space. One such project involves a Brown Hall renovation that could potentially add between 57,000 and 75,000 more square feet for students.

Another proposal in the works is a brand new 75,000 square foot general use academic building that would have new classrooms and lab space available for classes such as first year chemistry and physics.

The school has asked the state legislature for the funding to expand Brown Hall since the early 2000s. Funds for expanded Brown Hall from the State General Fund do not appear to be coming in the near future. That reason as an example, compounded by the expand-

"This year, the number of Mines applicants has grown by 35%. CSM is in demand and facilities are growing to accommodate this fact."

See FEE, Page 2

33 Dead, 29 Wounded In Deadliest Civilian Shooting in U.S. History

Zach Aman
Editorials Editor

At 7:15 Monday morning, a call was connected between the West Johnston Ambler Hall of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the police department of Blacksburg, Virginia, reporting the beginning of what CNN has referred to as the "deadliest mass shooting" in United States History.

Current reports indicate that 33 people were killed and 29 were injured by a gunman who was purportedly dressed "almost like a Boy Scout." Police have identified the gunman as Cho Seung-Hui, a 23 year-old undergraduate senior finishing an English degree at Virginia Tech. Reportedly, he used both a 22-caliber handgun and a 9 mm handgun in two separate attacks.

The first shooting, beginning at around 7:15 in the morning, left two students dead in the West Johnston Ambler residence hall. According to reports, the gunman left both Ryan Clark and Emily Hilscher dead in a search throughout the residence hall for his ex-girlfriend. Courtney Dalton, a Virginia Tech student and friend of Ryan Clark, told CNN: "He was a happy person; this is really sad. All I can do is pray for his family now."

Charles Steger, President of the university, said, "I'm really at a loss for words to explain or understand the carnage that has visited our campus."

The second shooting began roughly

two hours later at Norris Hall, an engineering building on campus. In a statement released this morning, Virginia Tech officials said; "Classes are canceled for the remainder of the week to allow students to mourn and begin healing." Norris Hall has been closed for the rest of the academic year.

The national impact was made clear this morning in a memo from Dr. Harold Cheuvront, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students at the Colorado School of Mines, addressed to all students, staff, and faculty. "Because of concerns resulting from the tragedy at Virginia Tech University, [Mines] will be implementing heightened security measures on campus," he said. "Until further notice, the entrances to all residence halls will be locked 24 hours per day. Access will be via Blaster Card only. Additionally, Public Safety staffing levels will be increased indefinitely to provide an increased campus presence. This presence will be for all campus classroom and laboratory buildings, administrative and service buildings, as well as all student life facilities." Cheuvront asked that any "suspicious situations or individuals" be reported immediately to the Office of Public Safety (303-273-3333).

President Bush sent his condolences to the families of the victims. "Schools should be places of sanctuary and safety and learning," he said. "When that sanctuary is violated, the impact is felt in every American classroom and every American community."

AC&N On The Move CTLM Addition Near Completion

Konrad Klett
Science & Technology Editor

The new addition to the Center for Technology and Learning Media (CTLM) will be the new home of the Academic Computing and Networking (AC&N) Center, starting this summer.

Computing center staff offices will be moved gradually, starting before

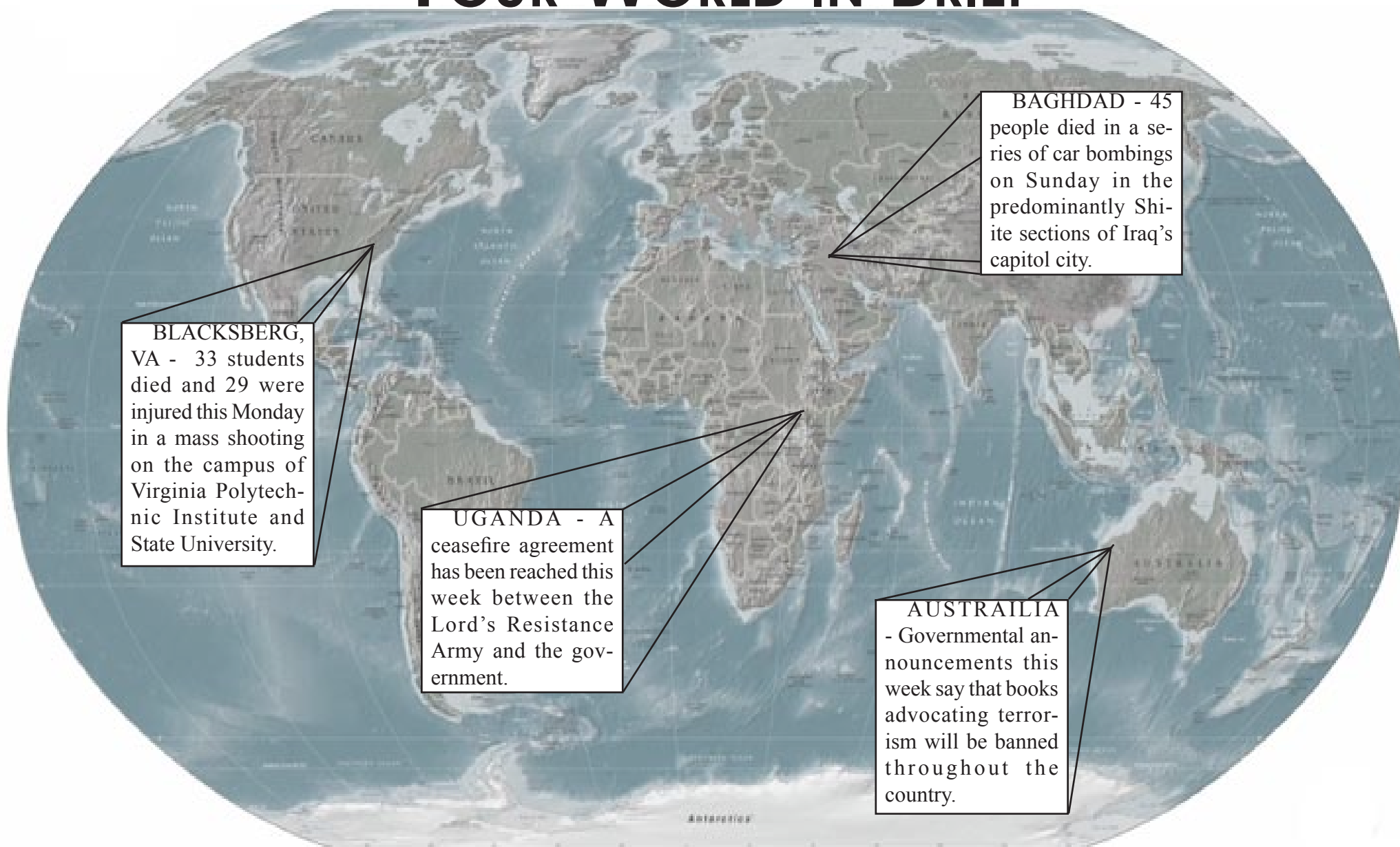
spring commencement. The lab itself will move afterwards. The move should be complete by June.

Most of the equipment will be the same except for two additional teaching labs, including a 14-seat Mac lab. The plan for this move was decided upon about seven years ago.

The CTLM was built to accom-

See MORE, Page 2

YOUR WORLD IN BRIEF



ASCSM Change In Decision- Making For Student Body

Continued from Page 1

ing Student Body have forced the school to asking Student Council to approve a fee for Academic Facility Construction.

This year, the number of Mines applicants has grown by 35%. CSM is in demand and facilities are growing to accommodate this fact. Many Mines students have finals on Saturday because there are simply not enough rooms on campus to facilitate only four days of finals. If this policy is approved, situations like this might be changed.

With the proposed addition of responsibilities, there's an additional opportunity for students to be active with the school. If these projects get approved, students will have access to more facilities.

With new office space, more research can be conducted with student help. With many expenses in the Master Plan, money has to come from somewhere – one place is directly from the students.

If the policy is changed and a project is approved, Mines students will see a gradual increase in student fees that will take at least three years to come into full effect. The money raised from this plan will be used to repay bonds that will be sold by the school to finance academic facility construction. The policy requires that students be involved in the projects funded with Student Fees, so Student Council will still have oversight on the spending.

President Scoggins and Student Council will be holding a "town hall" style meeting on Thursday, April 19th at 7:00 PM in the ballrooms of the Student Center. Every student has been encouraged to come to the meeting, listen to President Scoggins, and ask questions after his address.

Student Body President Casey Morse noted, "It is entirely valid and encouraged that the students give the administration and ASCSM a hard time." Student Council will vote on the fee at its meeting on Thursday, April 26th.

New Locale For AC&N Center

Continued from Page 1

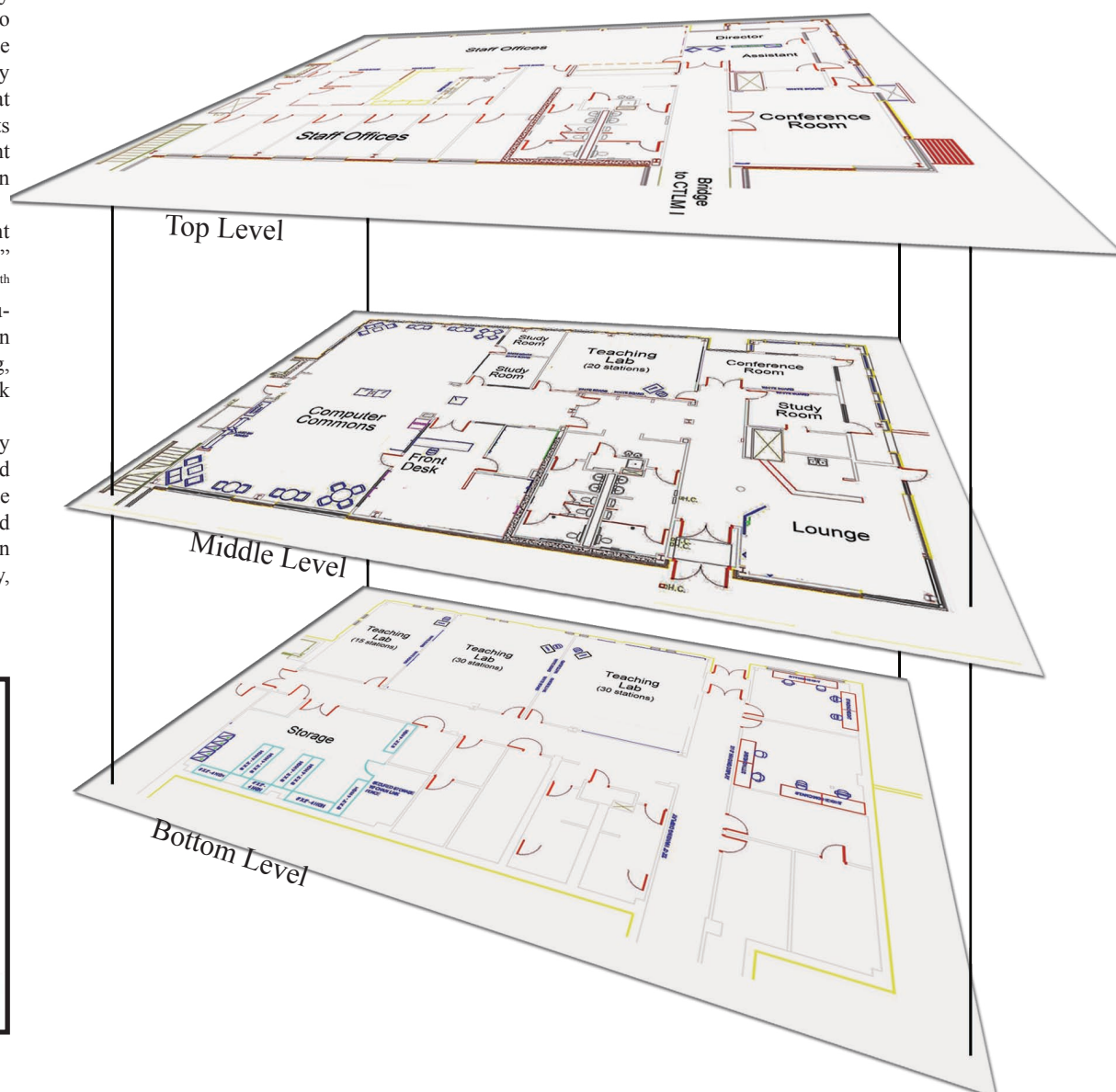
modate the growing need for computer labs to host additional classes and homework help sessions. The new addition was planned to be built

before now, but did not get underway until recently.

Additionally, hours of operation and staff schedules will remain the same. Some of the rooms in the Green Center will serve as generic

classrooms and those with networking equipment and back up systems will remain the same.

The Geophysics department is expanding into the space left by AC&N in the Green Center.



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Recognition For a Job Well Done

Wells named Student Employee of the Year

Hilary Brown
Features Editor

Each year, one person is recognized from among hundreds of student employees at Mines as the Student Employee of the Year. This honor was recently awarded to Thomas Wells, a senior.

Last week, Wells was selected as the Mines Student Employee of the Year, as well as the Student Employee of the Year for the entire state of Colorado. Wells was nominated by Rob Thompson, head of the Outdoor Recreation Center, and has been an employee of the ORC for several years.

"Thomas goes above and beyond his job responsibilities on a daily basis. He is a role-model for his peers and the many students he works with as participants" said Thompson.

"Thomas is faced with huge challenges on every trip, whether it's physically hiking up a fourteen thousand foot peak while trying to help someone deal with the altitude or providing emergency first aid when someone goes head first over their handle bars. Thomas is responsible for the participants' lives in dangerous environments while leading potentially dangerous activities," said Thompson.

At the ORC, Wells is responsible for leading outdoor trips, teaching classes on outdoor safety, and helping at the main desk of the ORC office.

"Thomas is very passionate about the outdoors and it shines through when he teaches others. He interacts well with his audience and is a very effective educator. He's very professional and dedicated to ensuring the audience benefits from his message. He has the ability to explain concepts and principles in ways that are not demeaning or arrogant. Thomas often coaches and teaches less experienced staff members. Simply put, Thomas effectively transfers his passion and knowledge to others," said Thompson.

"Thomas goes above and beyond his job responsibilities on a daily basis."

scheduled to work, helping customers or talking with his co-workers about new program idea or helping them with our computer system. His motivation and progressive ideas make him the perfect leader no matter what the discipline," said Thompson.

"My experiences with people in the outdoor recreation industry have exposed me to ideas and opinions that are new, exciting, and sometimes very conflicting with the ones I encounter daily on campus. Without a doubt, those times when I am faced with the

"My experiences with people in the outdoor recreation industry have exposed me to ideas and opinions that are new, exciting, and sometimes very conflicting with the ones I encounter daily on campus."

want to be," said Wells.

"Calculus and quantum physics are nice but learning about ice climbing,

snowshoeing, and how to handle an emergency situation on top of a mountain is a refreshing break from the norm," said Wells. Wells has earned a Wilderness First Responder certification, participated in the National Outdoor Leadership School, teaches Leave No Trace principles, and has completed avalanche training.

"To continue his environmental stewardship pursuits, he has also personally adopted a vegetarian lifestyle and sold his car to help reduce his consumption of fossil fuels and lower his carbon footprint. He is a constant role model for outdoor enthusiasts," said Thompson.

Wells volunteered to create a database for the ORC to update its administrative facilities, from pen and paper to digital information. "Thomas single handily revolutionized every aspect of the ORC and the way we do business, and he did it all for free," said Thompson. "[He] acts as our 24 hr. tech support person and in the beginning he often received multiple phone calls a day regarding [the database]."

"Occasionally my work at the ORC has forced me to deal with situations that were less than ideal, ranging from bad weather on winter camping trips to unhappy customers at the rental desk. Dealing with those situations, and learning from the decisions that were made (both good and bad) by myself and my coworkers, has

given me confidence in my ability to handle adversity and an appreciation of the importance of proper preparation," said Wells.

Wells devotes his time to organizations beyond his duties at the ORC. He works on the Technology In the Classroom Committee (TICC) within the Physics Department.



Courtesy Thomas Wells

Thomas Wells leads fellow students on rock-climbing trips and other wilderness adventures.

"When I'm not working at the ORC (or rock climbing), some of my free time is dedicated to the Technology In the Classroom Committee (TICC). TICC is a volunteer committee whose mission is to facilitate student learning through the integration and development of technology in the learning process," said Wells. "My involvement in TICC is a particularly rewarding experience since it is highly educational and yet still allows me to

BAM! Kicking It Up a Notch

Mines Taekwondo Club Organizes Martial Arts Demonstration

Hilary Brown
Features Editor

A chance to compete for glory, for fun, for practice. That's all the Mines Taekwondo Club wants. To reach this goal, the group is organizing a fundraiser to help with competition costs.

The fundraiser will be a martial arts demonstration. "We're mostly going to be doing Taekwondo, but we may also have a sword expert as well as some Kung Fu. We're going to have demonstrations of forms, board breaking, weapons, and some basic kicking," said Robert Brandin, president of the Mines Taekwondo Club. Members will be participating, as well as guests from a local Taekwondo studio.

The Taekwondo Club's fundraiser will be on April 21st, from 1-3pm in Volk Gymnasium. Tickets cost \$5 and will be sold Friday, April 20th from 10-12pm in the Student Center and at the door. The group hopes to raise between \$500 and \$1500. Proceeds will fund equipment and tournament registration fees for the club.

Right now, the Taekwondo Club is a special interest club, but hopes to get recognition as a club sport soon. "We're hoping to apply to become a club sport under the new tier system next semester. We're also going to try to get PA credit for participation worked out," said Brandin.

If the Taekwondo Club is granted

distinction as a club sport, "we can represent Mines at whatever tournaments we can get in to," said Brandin. Their instructor also runs a studio nearby.

There are eight members in the club. Practices focus on technique to increase belt rank. Practices before tournaments normally focus on sparring, which is a

short fight between two people. Normally, the club meets twice weekly, on Tuesday and Thursday from 8-9pm. "In preparation for the demonstration we've been meeting three or four times a week," said Brandin.

At least once a month, the club practices with a team from Boulder.



Courtesy Robert Brandin

Cody Margetts and Susan Steblay practice side kicks.

apply my talents to help many people around the world at the same time."

As a reward for his accomplishments, Wells has received a \$1000 scholarship from Mines, as well as \$50 and a plaque from the state. All in all, Wells is surprised at the attention that he's received: "I work hard because I am passionate about the things I do, not because I am trying to gain fame or fortune."

ROAR!!

Art Show Exhibits Mines' Talent

Sara Post
Copy Editor

The ROAR Spring 2007 Art Show has been taking place since March 22 and runs to the 30th of April. The artwork is on display on the 2nd floor of the Green Center and in Arthur Lakes Library, and it is definitely worth seeing, if only to dispel any lingering notions you may have concerning the artistic capacities of your fellow students.

Many of the pieces are very good, and, of course, some are superb. The first place winner, Animalia Chor-data Mammalia Carnivora Felidae Panthera Leo, by Alex Swanson, is a colored pencil drawing of a lion (as you may have guessed) that I mistook for a photograph, due to its stunning detail and clarity.

That piece, along with the third place recipient, a pen drawing of tennis gear by Sean Zeeck, is in the library, among several impressive drawings and one amazing graphical representation of the intertwining of the first three levels of the CSM homepage.

The truly stunning art, however, is mostly located in the Green Center, by the AC&N Center. The largest pieces are by Lydia Muwanga, and you can't miss them: the panels are three or four feet tall and brilliantly colorful, as well as fantastically rendered. I gathered that they were about the need for change in Africa, but I must confess that I was most impressed by the emotional quality of the artwork, as well as by the pure power of the colors and the imagery.

If that is not enough, walk along the rest of the corridor, and look at the very detailed rendering of Denzel Washington, by Tyler Robbins, the 2nd place winner. Altogether, it is an amazing show. Go, and be amazed.



Sara Post/Oredigger
Tyler Robbins, whose "Denzel Washington" won Second Place, also drew this picture, "Achilles," in pencil.

Taekwondo came to America in the 1950s from Korea, where it has been practiced for nearly 2000 years. "[It] is a lot of throwing kicks from a fairly mobile stance in order to keep your opponent at a distance. We do a little bit of practice with the arms, but the vast majority of practice is kicking," said Brandin. Taekwondo and Judo are the only martial arts that are accepted to compete in the Olympics.

For more information, contact Robert Brandin (rbrandin@mines.edu).

Going Into the Streets Annual Service Set For Apr. 21st

Shaemus Gleason
Editor-in-Chief

The 7th annual "Into the Streets" community volunteering event will be held this Saturday, April 21, from 8:30AM to 1PM at the Student Center, open to all CSM students and faculty with no experience required. Teams or individuals will be assigned to locations throughout Jefferson and Golden County.

Assignments, gear, and breakfast will be provided in the student center at 8:30AM. In addition, there will be T-shirts available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Registration forms should be emailed to tamiller@mines.edu, or dropped by student activities by Friday April 20th at the latest.

Into the Streets is one of the CSM community's main contributions to National Volunteer Week, a week set aside to pay respect to the volunteers in our communities and trying to get involved in volunteer opportunities ourselves.

"Into the Streets is a great opportunity for students who want to

volunteer but do not have a lot of time or can't commit to a long term program," according to Jennifer Doane, the Assistant Director of Student Activities.

While National Volunteer Week was started as a presidential decree, "Into the Streets" is "a student-developed, student run program, whose success depends on students' willingness to give four hours of their time on Saturday morning," according to Doane.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available through "Into the Streets." These range from working at an animal shelter to assisting in open space reclamation projects.

According to Doane, as members of the CSM community it is important to become involved in community volunteer work, because "engineers tend to be community leaders so they should have a connection to the community."

Furthermore, this opportunity provides a chance for "engineering students to appreciate the importance of engineering beyond math and science."

Evening in the Park

Lily Giddings
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, April 19th, the Colorado School of Mines will be hosting "An Evening in the Park." This event is sponsored by Mines Athletics, and the NCAA. It is a time for the Mines community and the Golden community to come together and enjoy free events and food.

Evening in the Park will be held on Kafadar Commons from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Many local businesses will be there, giving away free food or prizes. There will be other events, games, and music from Flywheel.

This is the first year that Mines has been asked to host an Evening in the Park. The NCAA annually picks five Division 2 schools to showcase the relationship between the Athletics Organization and the community

in which they operate. This year, Mines was one of the lucky five.

"It's like the reverse of the pizza party that we have with Golden in the fall," says Derek Morgan. He means that in the fall, the Mines community descends into Golden, to eat pizza and mingle with the Golden community. This time, Mines is inviting the Golden community onto campus, to mingle and enjoy various activities.

While all events are free, some booths will offer attendees a chance to make a donation. These donations go to the Make-a-Wish foundation.

Events include: kiddy train rides, climbing wall, horse drawn carriage rides, panning for gold, face painting, balloon animals, and pictures with Blaster, Buffalo Bill, and Annie Oakley.

Come out and enjoy the fun!

Belgian Brew

Chris Phillips
Business Manager
Hilary Brown
Features Editor

This week, we'd like to give our loyal readers two perspectives on a unique, truly Belgian beer. Comprised of wheat, hops, and malt, Iris is a lambic beer. Lambic describes the fermentation process: it ferments in the open air between October and May. After several months of open-air fermentation, the beer is placed in barrels and left to complete its development. The Iris is comprised of 50% dried hops and 50% fresh hops and undergoes a fresh-hopping after being in the barrels for two years, and

is then bottled.

Appearance –

[Chris] It has an orange-yellow color, with low to medium carbonation—it pours with two fingers of very thin head. The head, itself, does stay around for a while.

[Hilary] The color is golden-yellow, with light carbonation. To me, this looks how a beer *should* look.

Smell –

[Hilary] It smells acidic, with woody undertones. It's very hoppy.

[Chris] I agree, it's fairly acidic; I'm definitely smelling the woody hops. However, I'm also smelling a slight amount of bitter herbs and I can't quite tell whether it's the malt or the hops. I'm thinking that the bitterness is coming from wheat.

Taste –

[Chris] On the front end of the beer, I tasted a slightly sweet bitterness that seemed to come from the bitter herb smell. This taste was almost immediately drowned by a taste that reminded me of a bitter lime salt. It has an acidic aftertaste that almost evokes vinegar, to be honest.

QUICK FACTS

Name — Iris;
Brewer — Cantillon Brasserie-Brouwerij, Brussels, Belgium;
Importer — Shelton Brothers, Belchertown, MA;
Alcohol Content — 5% by volume

Making Connections International Honorary Organization Brings Study Abroad Students Together

Jason Fish
News Editor

International students have been coming to study at the Colorado School of Mines for years. They have traveled from Europe, the Middle East, even Mongolia. Students from Mines have also gone abroad to many different countries and universities.

To help improve international education for those students visiting or embarking from CSM, the Office of International Programs (OIP) set up a chapter of Phi Beta Delta.

"The Epsilon Mu chapter of Phi Beta Delta was granted in 2002," said Dr. Kay Godel-Gengenbach, who runs the OIP from Stratton Hall. "The first group of 13 students was initiated in 2003."

PBD is an international honorary organization for students, scholars, faculty, and staff at universities who have studied abroad or have been involved in international academic programs.

At Mines, all members in PBD are invited into the organization. The criteria for invitation are to have studied in at least two different cultural environments and maintaining a B average in both places. These rules apply to Mines students going

abroad and international students attending CSM.

"Unlike the national organization, our chapter focuses on student achievement and has not actively solicited membership of faculty who share our goals of promoting cross-cultural dialogues, though this is under consideration for the future," said Godel-Gengenbach.

Phi Beta Delta is run by student officers as well as the OIP. Amanda Younessian, a junior in the Materials and Metallurgical Engineering department, took a summer course on the island of St. Kitts two years ago and

"Unlike the national organization, our chapter focuses on student achievement."

is currently the PBD Secretary.

"I thought it would be a good way to meet other international students on campus," said Younessian. "I like meeting them, especially the Spanish kids. They're crazy."

At Mines, Phi Beta Delta hosts weekly movie nights, featuring international films from all over the world. There is also a PBD booth set up at Celebration of Mines, providing

information about studying abroad and giving assistance to visiting international students.

"PBD tries to bring more diversity to the campus and make the students here more aware of that diversity," said Younessian.

Phi Beta Delta began at California State University in 1986. Attaining status as a national organization in 1987, it began with 38 registered chapters across the country. By 2005, 154 chapters were at full membership.

In addition to helping students going abroad, Phi Beta Delta chapters seek to establish connectivity between universities worldwide. There are national conferences and meetings held yearly to gather students, faculty, and staff from many different places to discuss the future of international education. Recently, CSM had a PBD member recognized.

"In 2004, Mohan Dangi (Bsc, Msc at Mines) was named one of the outstanding members of PBD at the national conference," said Godel-Gengenbach.

The PBD chapter at Mines puts on other events just for its members. They have taken trips to Washington, D.C., New York, Mexico, and skiing in Breckenridge.

WHAT HAPPENS IN COLLEGE STAYS AT COLLEGE

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[Hilary] It tastes bitter, and very acidic. It tastes more like wine than beer. The taste is very sour and has understated wheat undertones. The aftertaste leaves an impression of lingering bitterness.

Mouthfeel –

[Hilary] The carbonation is very smooth and the beer sits lightly in my mouth. It doesn't feel very thick.

Drinkability –

[Chris] Definitely an interesting experience. While I'm not going to run to buy another bottle, I wouldn't shy away from trying it again.

[Hilary] I really enjoy this beer—

perhaps because it is so unique. This is actually the second time that I've had lambics from this brewer and I would definitely go out and buy another bottle.

Note: Neither The Oredigger nor the Oregon Brewing Company condone the consumption of alcohol by people under 21 years of age.

Geek of the Week

...Martin Heck, Academic Computing and Networking

Jason Fish
News Editor

[Oredigger] What's the geekiest thing you've ever done?

[Heck] Geekiest thing... definitely getting another room for all my computer toys (or junk as the case may be).

What are your hobbies?

I like playing on computers, reading Sci-Fi books, and hanging out with the other geeks!

What do you do here at Mines?

I'm a member of Academic Computing & Networking. Specifically, in the Academic Department Support side, I work on the various single-department servers and integrating departments' computing needs into centralized systems (your tech fee at work!).

What do you think of the pocket-protector stereotype of a geek?

I can't stand pocket protectors. I'm much happier in jeans and a tee with a PDA in hand. It's so much more convenient than the old paper & pen way.

I hear you're a fan of Macintosh, what do you think of the OS battle between Windows, Mac, and Linux? What's your preference?

Personally, I love Macs, they just work for the most part. Professionally I use whatever is in front of me, be it Windows, Linux, Mac, or even more esoteric things (Slate for instance).

What did you do before coming to CSM?

I'm still working on my undergraduate degree (someday, coming up on 10 years now...) here at CSM, but before working in AC&N, I've done operations & support positions with EDS, CH2MHILL, and several dot-coms, as well as bits of in-house development here and there.

Do you have a favorite Star Trek series? Episode?

TNG and "The Drumhead." It's al-



Courtesy Martin Heck

Martin Heck is a geek, and proud of it!

ways good to have the reminder that freedom's never free.

What do you think of Google expanding into online spreadsheets, calendars, etc...?

It will be very curious to see how well Google can manage that kind of use. I would really like to see them open up some products, particularly front-ends like Gmail and Google Calendar. They could integrate well with several AC&N projects. However, it would still be nice to have our own back-ends. For instance, users could have Thunderbird or Mail.app or Outlook connect to the same back-end mail system, but use the Gmail front-end for webmail.

Do you consider yourself a geek?
Yup, and proud of it...

Have any geek jokes?
Not really... well... maybe "There's no place like ::1"

What do you think of the Mines culture? Does it live up to the 'nerd & geek' name?

Culturally, Mines definitely lives up to the nerd & geek idea, but in

some non-traditional ways from time to time.

Are you a fan of chess? Any good?

I play chess every once and so often... but I usually do very crappy at it.

Do you have an idol or role model that's inspired you in life?

Even though they're fictional characters, Spock & Data. They exhibit the beauty of logic and order, but also the curiosity which drives our explorations; be it of space, the planet around us, or ourselves.

Books For Life

Lily Giddings
Staff Reporter

All attendees at the Colorado School of Mines have visited the domain of Ed Showers, the CSM bookstore. Students will notice, amongst the books and Mines paraphernalia, a friendly presence offering assistance and guidance through the labyrinth of required reading material, school supplies, sweatshirts, stickers, and snack foods.

Ed Showers has worked at Mines since the opening of the bookstore, in November 1999, and before that he worked at the Colorado University in Boulder. He has been in the business for a long time, and really enjoys working with students.

Ed Showers enjoys the close-knit campus community at Mines.



Lily Giddings/Oredigger

Ed Showers enjoys the close-knit campus community at Mines.

"Mines has more of a small town feeling. In Boulder, it was a lot larger; I couldn't really get to know lots of the students like I can here."

"It's neat to see the freshmen come in, then watch them graduate, and get to know them in between" says Ed. And he has gotten to know many of the students on the Mines campus. He even knows some by name. "Mines has more of a small town feeling. In Boulder, it was a lot larger; I couldn't really get to know lots of the students like I can here."

Aside from the students, Ed really

enjoys working in the bookstore. "It's never the same thing: as soon as you get sick of the book rush, it's over. As soon as you are getting bored with slow business, the book rush starts again." The bookstore staff work hard

to keep the store stocked, and they listen to student suggestions, trying to keep students involved in an important part of the campus.

"I don't miss the mass, it makes it easier to run the store," says Ed, comparing Mines and Boulder. "But I could use some more room." Some-

time in the future, Mines is hoping to expand the student center, maybe then Ed will get his wish.

The bookstore is thinking of creating a student committee to come

up with ideas for the bookstore, but Ed realizes that students are pretty busy, and may not have time for serving on a committee. "I think the bookstore is a place where students can go to break up the monotony of studying," declares Ed. So it is important for students to stay involved and make sure that the bookstore meets their needs.

A Living Library

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Entertainment Editor

Myles "Bill" Scoggins, President of the Colorado School of Mines, has made campus diversity a clear priority during his first year at Mines. On Dead Day, Friday May 4th, the second-annual Living Library, an event that promotes diversity, will take place in the lobby of Arthur Lakes Library from noon to 5pm.

Living Library started in Europe, with the idea being that a person could have the opportunity to meet and talk with someone different. It is an approach that attempts to fight prejudice against those different by actually having people meet face-to-face.

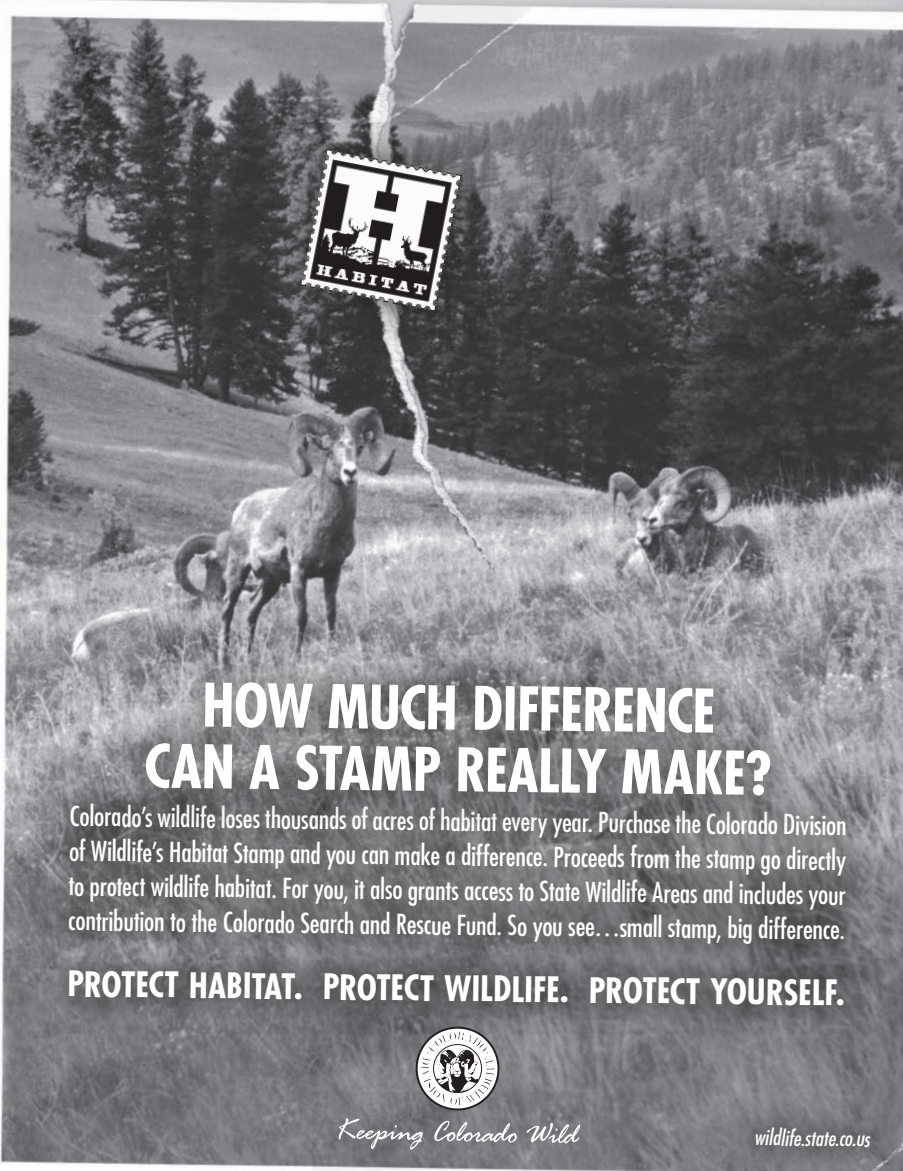
Last year was the first time a Living Library event was held on campus. Rosalind Parker Yocom is the faculty advisor for Sigma Lambda, the organization co-sponsoring the event along with the library. She noted: "Everyone came away from last year after having a 'light-switch' moment."

Sigma Lambda is the gay-straight alliance on campus, but Yocom is quick to note that it is not just about sexuality. She said the event is really about recognizing that "you can walk across campus and recognize how different people can be."

Statistics show that the Mines campus is largely white and male. Yocom mentions that this is irrelevant once one realizes that "not everyone [views] the world the same." She said, "Living Library is being held as a way to [appreciate] how diversity shows us to be both alike and different."

Modern culture has brought information to individuals' fingertips through the internet, spreading faster than it can be generated. The increasing saturation of media through social-networking sites is raising awareness of diversity, but Living Library is attempting to do this on a personal level. Yocom declares: "Who needs YouTube and Myspace when you can check someone out face-to-face?"

"Who needs YouTube and Myspace when you can check someone out face-to-face?"



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National League Shakes Things Up In 2007

Bruce Bugbee
Sports Editor

Even though the National League is often overshadowed by the American League, the NL teams are in no means slouchs. Look for the NL to give the AL a run for their money this postseason.

NL East
New York Mets

The Mets slugged their way past the rest of the National League East with one of the most potent lineups in all of baseball. The off-season addition of Moises Alou will solidify the bottom of the lineup. Third baseman David Wright is becoming the National League version of Derek Jeter with his on-field performance and his charismatic personality. The only question for this team is their rotation. Beyond Tom Glavine, who can be counted on for 15 wins every season, their rotation is full of young guns and injury prone veterans.

'06 Finish: 1st NL East
'07 Finish: 1st NL East

Atlanta Braves

The Braves have a lot of questions this year. These include health concerns over team anchors Chipper Jones and Mike Hampton, trade rumors for Andruw Jones, and will Atlanta be able to psychologically recover from not making the playoffs last year and ending their 14 year division title streak. If the Braves can negotiate these obstacles, their bullpen and middle of the lineup should be able to lead them into the postseason in the wild card spot. With three pitchers that have closer potential in the bullpen, Atlanta's rotation will be able to take less innings and still get quality starts.

'06 Finish: 3rd NL East
'07 Finish: 2nd NL East

Philadelphia Phillies

The Philadelphia Phillies is a prime example of how having set of talented players doesn't necessarily translate into a winning team. First baseman Ryan Howard will continue to dominate National League pitchers and Chase Utley will continue to be the most valuable second baseman in the league. Young guns Brett Myers and Cole Hamels could become rotation aces over the course of the year. Regardless of these bright spots, Philadelphia will fall apart over the course of the season due partly to injury and partly to a lack of focus.

'06 Finish: 2nd NL East
'07 Finish: 3rd NL East

Florida Marlins

The Florida Marlins are a young team with potential and not much else. Aside from ace Dontrelle Willis and third baseman Miguel Cabrera, the team lacks any real All Star talent. The addition of veteran Aaron Boone to back up Cabrera at third base and platoon at first base will help add an experienced voice for the young players.

'06 Finish: 4th NL East
'07 Finish: 4th NL East

Washington Nationals

The only upside for the Nationals this year is that they will get a brand new stadium. Aside from that, it is hard to find a positive on this team. Still reeling from the move to Washington, the Nationals still don't have a coherent team attitude. Look for the Nationals to lose 105 games this year.

'06 Finish: 5th NL East
'07 Finish: 5th NL East

NL Central
St. Louis Cardinals

The reigning World Champions are going to have their work cut out for them this year. With the departure of the majority of their rag tag rotation to free agency, pitching is going to be the concern of the season for St. Louis. Chris Carpenter will have to fight off injury and contend for the Cy Young if this team wants to replicate their post season success. Young guns Adam Wainwright and Braden Looper will have to show that they can make the jump from relief to starting pitching. If they can, look at these players quickly becoming two of elite young pitchers in the game. Offense shouldn't be a problem for any lineup that includes Albert Pujols, Jim Edmonds, Scott Rolen, and Preston Wilson holding down the middle.

'06 Finish: 1st NL Central
'07 Finish: 1st NL Central

Houston Astros

The Houston Astros had a rough off-season with the loss of Andy Pettitte and the temporary retirement of Roger Clemens. New starters Jason Jennings and Woody Williams will help fill the void but won't fully make up for the change. Carlos Lee, the free agent left fielder that the Astros courted this off-season, will fit perfectly into the lineup between slugger Lance Berkman and third baseman Morgan Ensberg.

'06 Finish: 2nd NL Central
'07 Finish: 2nd NL Central

Chicago Cubs

The Chicago Cubs were the most active team this off-season with the signing Alfonso Soriano. Combined with a healthy Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez, the Cubs will have a very dangerous middle of the lineup. Ace Carlos Zambrano is a legitimate Cy Young contender and Ted Lilly and Jason Marquis should produce plenty of quality starts. The Cubs will have a much better season than last year but will fall short of the division title due to a weakness in the bullpen and at the back of the rotation.

'06 Finish: 5th NL Central
'07 Finish: 3rd NL Central

Milwaukee Brewers

The Brewers have the most potential out of any team in baseball. With a group of young players reminiscent of the 2006 Tigers, the Brewers are an athletic team that plays smart baseball. Look for the Brewers to fall short this year but they will win a division title within three years.

'06 Finish: 4th NL Central
'07 Finish: 4th NL Central

Cincinnati Reds

The Reds have a great 1-2 pitching combination in Aaron Harang and Bronson Arroyo, but the rest of the rotation is unproven. More concerning is the offensive production of the Reds' lineup. Aside from first baseman Scot Hatteberg, the Reds are one of the worst plate disciplined teams in baseball and strike out way too often to be considered serious contenders.

'06 Finish: 3rd NL Central
'07 Finish: 5th NL Central

Pittsburg Pirates

The Pittsburg Pirates have too many problems to say that any one is going to be the cause of an underwhelming season. With a lack of starting pitching, a lack of RBI power



Colorado Rockies second baseman Jamey Carroll shows a lighter side during a 5-4 loss against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Saturday.

outside of left fielder Jason Bay and first baseman Adam LaRoche, and overall poor attitude in the club house, the Pittsburgh Pirates will be playing this season not for a post season spot but for a season that doesn't rank them as the worst team in the league.

'06 Finish: 5th NL Central
'07 Finish: 6th NL Central

NL West
Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers are going to be the team to beat in NL West this year. With Derek Lowe, Jason Schmidt, and Brad Penny holding down the rotation, the Dodger pitching staff is as good as any in the National League. The LA lineup consists of a group of smart hitters that are tough outs for most pitchers. This somewhat makes up for the lack of power in the lineup but will still hurt the club come October.

'06 Finish: 2nd NL Central
'07 Finish: 1st NL Central

San Diego Padres

The San Diego Padres will have enough starting pitching to match division rivals Los Angeles but will fall short of catching them in the offensive department. Greg Maddux, David Wells, and Trevor Hoffman will provide a veteran presence on the team that will help with team performance. Adrian Gonzalez and Mike Cameron will put some pop into an otherwise lackluster lineup.

'06 Finish: 1st NL Central
'07 Finish: 2nd NL Central

Arizona Diamondbacks

The Diamondbacks have the ability to become one of the premier teams in the National League thanks to a growing contingent of young players. Last year's Cy Young winner Brandon Webb will continue to be a great pitcher and will probably win 15 games this year. The return of Randy Johnson will provide an intimidating presence as long as he is healthy. Arizona will fall short this year but should have no problem making the postseason in years to come.

'06 Finish: 5th NL West
'07 Finish: 3rd NL West

Colorado Rockies

Like always, pitching is the problem for the Rockies at Coors Field. With Todd Helton rebounding from back problems and Matt Holliday becoming a serious home run threat, the Rockies offense should provide enough pop to win games at home. The rotation is better than it has been in recent memory with pitchers Aaron Cook and Jeff Francis but isn't enough to keep the Rockies competitive in the pitching-heavy NL West.

'06 Finish: 4th NL West
'07 Finish: 4th NL West

San Francisco Giants

There is simply too much drama and not enough baseball playing for the San Francisco Giants to be taken seriously. The off-season acquisition

of Barry Zito has been considered by many to be a poor move due to his decline in performance over the past few seasons. As always Barry Bonds provides more of a distraction and a liability than an offensive threat. The simple fact is that this Giants team isn't built for making the playoffs.

'06 Finish: 3rd NL West
'07 Finish: 5th NL West

With the baseball season in full swing one thing is ceratin. There are going to be teams coming out of the woodwork this year to give the playoff favorites more trouble than anyone can expect. The 2007 season is sure to be as exciting and unpredictable as any other season in the history of baseball.

Guide to 2007 National Leauge	
NL East Winner	NY Mets
NL Central Winner	St. Louis Cardinals
NL West Winner	LA Dodgers
NL Wildcard	Atlanta Braves

Individual Leaders	
Batting Average	Derek Lee
Home Runs	Albert Pujols
Runs Batted In	Albert Pujos
Cy Young Award	Roy Oswalt
Earned Run Avg.	Roy Oswalt
Most Wins	Roy Oswalt
Most Saves	Billy Wagner
MVP	David Wright
Rookie of the Year	Troy Tulowitzki

Softball Nears Break Even Mark on Season

Oredigger Women Split UC-Colorado Springs Series; Fall to Metro State

Sara Post
Copy Editor

The Colorado School of Mines softball team dropped a pair of games to Regis in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference action at Regis Field on Wednesday, March 28th.

The Rangers scored six runs in the fifth inning to win game one, 9-1, and then took the nightcap, 5-2. Sophomore second baseman Sara Eickelman led CSM at the plate as she went a combined 3-for-4 with an RBI. Freshman right fielder Jackye Lagen drove in both runs in game two with her third homer of the year. That came in the seventh inning to ruin the Ranger shutout bid.

On Friday, March 30th, the team opened up a four game series at Western New Mexico with a doubleheader split in Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference action. CSM won the opener, 10-5, but fell in game two, 5-3.

Junior shortstop Melissa Stratton went a combined 4-for-8 with an RBI and a run. Senior third baseman Brienne Brennan and sophomore first baseman Katie Kocman each drove in three runs in the nightcap as both hit home runs. Kocman also picked up the win in game two with three innings of relief.

They split a twin bill at Western New Mexico for the second straight day on the afternoon of the 31st. Once again, CSM won the opener, 9-4, but dropped the nightcap, 3-1. In game one, CSM rallied from a 4-0 deficit with six runs in the fourth.

The Orediggers were led by junior shortstop Melissa Stratton who went 4-for-5 with two runs, while sopho-

more first baseman Katie Kocman was 3-for-5 with three runs batted in. Freshman right fielder Jackye Lagen finished 4-for-4 with two RBI and a run. Sophomore Taylor Cayou improved to 6-6 as she fired a complete game six hitter and fanned four.

Kocman finished game two 2-for-3 at the plate as CSM was limited to six hits.

On Saturday April 7th, at UC-Colo-rado Springs, CSM won the opener, 11-6, but could not complete the sweep as it fell, 9-1, in game two.

In the opener, CSM scored eight times in the first inning on seven hits for the win. Sophomore first baseman Katie Kocman led the way as she finished 2-for-4 with a home run, three RBI and two runs. Junior shortstop Melissa Stratton and senior catcher Beth Skidmore also drove in two runs apiece.

Sophomore Taylor Cayou worked four innings, allowing five runs (four earned) to earn the win (7-7).

In game two, the Mountain Lions scored four in the second, three more in the third and two in the fifth in a five inning win. CSM was limited to just two hits, both by Kocman, including her second homer of the day.

On Sunday the 8th, UCCS won the opener, 8-0, but the Orediggers responded to take the nightcap, 15-3. CSM scored 11 runs in the fifth inning to blow the game open.

CSM was limited to just three hits in the five inning opener, but responded with 14 hits in game two. Freshman right fielder Jackye Lagen went 3-for-4 with three runs and an RBI in game two, while senior catcher Beth Skidmore was 2-for-4 with a

run and four RBI. She hit a three run homer.

Sophomore Katie Kocman pitched five innings to earn the win and improve to 11-9. She allowed three runs on five hits and fanned three.

The softball team split a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference double header on the 4th at the CSM softball field against Regis University.

CSM dropped the opener 6-1 but battled back to take the second game 10-2.

The Orediggers were led by Jennifer Newman who went 4-for-6 with one run and three runs batted in, while Melissa Stratton was 4-for-7 with two runs.

Pitcher Katie Kocman improved to 10-8 as she pitched five inning allowing only six runs and struck out three.

The softball team split a four game series against UCCS this past weekend. In the opener, CSM scored eight times in the first inning on seven hits for the win. Sophomore first baseman Katie Kocman led the way as she finished 2-for-4 with a home run, three RBI and two runs. Junior shortstop Melissa Stratton and senior catcher Beth Skidmore also drove in two runs apiece.

Sophomore Taylor Cayou worked four innings, allowing five runs (four earned) to earn the win (7-7).

In game two, CSM scored four in the second, three more in the third and two in the fifth in a five inning win. CSM was limited to just two hits, both by Kocman, including her second homer of the day.

UCCS won the game three, 8-0, but the Orediggers responded to take



Courtesy CSM Athletics
Senior catcher Beth Skidmore hit a three-run home run in game four of a four game series against UCCS on Sunday.

the game four, 15-3. CSM scored 11 runs in the fifth inning to blow the game open.

CSM was limited to just three hits in the five inning in game three, but responded with 14 hits in game four. Freshman right fielder Jackye Lagen went 3-for-4 with three runs and an RBI in game two, while senior catcher Beth Skidmore was 2-for-4 with a run and four RBI. She hit a three run homer.

Sophomore Katie Kocman pitched five innings to earn the win and improve to 11-9. She allowed three runs on five hits and fanned three.

CSM (19-20, 10-17 RMAC) will return to action on Saturday afternoon when it hosts New Mexico Highlands at 12:00 pm at CSM Field.

Get To Know Your Sports Terms

Mike Stone
Staff Writer

There's a little thing about sports that some people don't get: proper TERM usage. This means when calling a play, you call it by the right name. For instance, when you and your buddy are watching a rugby game on a Saturday and he says the guys on the field are in a "huddle," you can correct him and say, "It's called a scrum." Simple stuff right? You'd be surprised how many people get it wrong.

Here's a short list of those most misinterpreted:

When a hockey game has six players vs. five players, it is called a power play. When a lacrosse game has ten players vs. nine, it is called a man-up.

When watching tennis, you are watching a match. When watching baseball, you are watching a game.

When soccer players throw the ball in bounds, it's called a throw in. When rugby players throw the ball in bounds, it's called a line-out.

When a hockey player gets in trouble, he goes to the penalty box. When a rugby player gets in trouble, he goes to the sin-bin.

College basketball has two halves. Hockey has three periods. Football has four quarters.

When a football player scores, he gets a touchdown. When a basketball player scores, he gets a basket. When a lacrosse player scores, he gets a goal. When a rugby player scores, he gets a try. When a baseball player scores, he gets a run. When a Mines student scores, it's usually an A-average.

Oredigger Summer Photo Contest

Send in your best photos from this summer into the Oredigger for the chance to get it published in the fall. Take pictures of field session, internships, sports, vacation, and anything else that you do and send them in to oredig@mines.edu.

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*This offer expires on June 30, 2007. All loans are subject to the terms and conditions of CSECU's loan policies. **Rate quoted as of March 28, 2007. Your Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary depending on your credit worthiness, term and collateral. Rates subject to change. Interest will accrue during the entire term of the loan including the non-payment period.



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Arriving Shortly

Chase Hoffman
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

April 20th

"Vacancy" by Screen Gems
Horror, Rated R

Starring: Kate Beckinsale, Luke Wilson

Directed by Nimród Antal

Summary: A couple traveling late at night breaks down in the middle of nowhere and rolls into a dusty old motel. They come across an old

VHS tape that shows a murder happening in the exact same room they are staying in.

Impression: The idea is sort of clever, but it boils down to a deranged psycho-path who likes to play puppeteer. Nothing spectacular here.

"Hot Fuzz" by Rogue Pictures
Comedy, Rated R

Starring: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost
Directed by Edgar Wright

Summary: Nicholas Angel (Pegg) is

a London super cop. In fact, he was so damn good, they reassigned him to the safest village in England. Curiously, this town has both the lowest crime rate and highest accident rate and Angel is about to prove why.

Impression: The guys responsible for *Shaun of the Dead* know how to parody to a subtle extent. This refined art they possess will make this film an excellent little comedy with a few good action sequences.

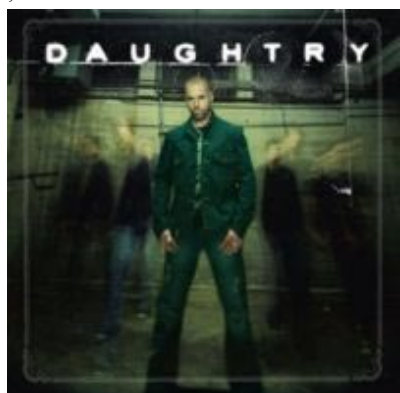
Daughtry Disc Tops Charts

Debut of former Idol finalist makes waves

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Entertainment Editor

Chris Daughtry is probably best-known for being the fourth-place finalist on last year's season five of *American Idol*. Now, he and his rock band are breaking the *Idol* mold with their self-titled album *DAUGHTRY*. Yes, the name is all caps.

The disc sold over one million copies after five weeks of release, rising to the #1 spot on the Billboard Top 200 albums soon after. So far, it has sold over 2 million copies, outselling *Idol* season 5 winner Taylor Hicks' debut album 3-to-1. The single *It's Not Over* debuted at #1 on VH1's VSPOT Top 20 Countdown, and has been a Top 10 single on Amazon.com and iTunes.



Courtesy Wikipedia.org

It is worth noting that Daughtry recorded this album even before he assembled his band, so the disc was done absent his current band. The band should boost his viability as an artist. He turned down an offer to be the lead singer of Fuel after being voted off *American Idol*, instead signing a record deal with Clive Davis. His debut album has set records for how fast it has sold. He has even been compared to Bon Jovi and Nickelback's Chad Kroeger, but he has been criticized by some because

his songs sound so much like those of Creed and the aforementioned Nickelback.

It is rare that I find an album where I like every song, but this is one of them. I'm also encouraged that this is only Daughtry's first album, and the potential sophomore slump notwithstanding, he and his band have promise. This CD has risen above competition, still ranking #1 on the Billboard rock chart after almost five months in release. In my humble opinion, every one of the tracks merits radio play.

DAUGHTRY has undoubtedly sold on the strength of the heavily-played *It's Not Over*, but it is a solid album top to bottom, including the song *What I Want*, which features Slash on guitar, and *Home*, the current send-off tune on *American Idol*. Subsequent albums will have to answer to the similarities between songs and also to other bands.

Reel Geek

A Film Geek Writes
About Geeks On Film

Jen Schneider
Columnist

I'm going to get around to writing a review of *Thank You for Smoking*, I promise. It just might take me a minute, so be patient. Read on.

A colleague sent me an article this weekend by Marilyn Dyrud, a professor who teaches technical writing at a university like Mines. In the article, called "Looking Backward: German Technical Writers in the 1930s," she explains how she uses technical writing from Nazi Germany to make the point to her students that all sorts of writing, even writing that might seem apolitical or value-neutral—like technical writing might seem to many of us—can in fact be laden with political context, social meaning, and ethical import.

Technical writing might even be the opposite of value-neutral, says Dyrud. She quotes Stephen Katz, who argues: "Technical writing, perhaps even more than other kinds of technical discourse, always leads to action, and thus always impacts on human life" (3). In other words, the objective of technical writing is to get the writer to know or do something. In that sense, its outcome always has ethical implications.

For example, Dyrud has her students look at a memo written by a Nazi mechanic responsible for servicing "mobile gassing vans," vans used to exterminate people whom the Third Reich had determined unfit, the sick and the weak. The vans drove these people around, pumping carbon monoxide in the back until they had all died. Here's an excerpt from the memo, the goal of which was to encourage drivers to reduce "load space":

So reduction of the load space seems necessary. It must absolutely be reduced by a yard, instead of trying to solve the problem, as hitherto, by reducing the number of pieces loaded. Besides, this extends the operating time, as the empty void must be also filled with carbon monoxide. On the other hand, if the load space is reduced, and the vehicle is packed solid, the operating time can be considerably shortened (2).

Chilling, isn't it? As Dyrud points out, writing like this is actually good technical writing, if we examine it devoid of historical context: it understands its audience and purpose, communicates clearly, and follows the conventions of technical writing. But the objectives achieved, the referring to human beings as "pieces" and "loads," pose grave ethical and moral problems. This is an extreme example, but it illustrates how the contexts in which we operate shape and are shaped by the words we use to describe them.

What we say and do, in a professional context, is never value-neutral. Not even for, and maybe especially

not ever for, engineers and scientists.

And now I will come back to the purpose of this column, which is to reflect occasionally on what's going on in American cinema. I write about the Nazi technical writers because the film *Thank You for Smoking* (2005) made me think of it.

The film usually gets billed as a sort of satire of the lobbying industry. It follows Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart), a lobbyist for Big Tobacco who must creatively defend smoking at a time when public opinion toward smoking is profoundly negative. The dialog is witty and appealing, and it's certainly a unique experience to see a film in which a lobbyist is actually the protagonist. The film is funny and clever, and it's full of slick sets and star cameos.

But here's my problem with it, and with a lot of films of its ilk, which end in a sort of amoral no-man's-land, a nihilistic irony that is appealing to my

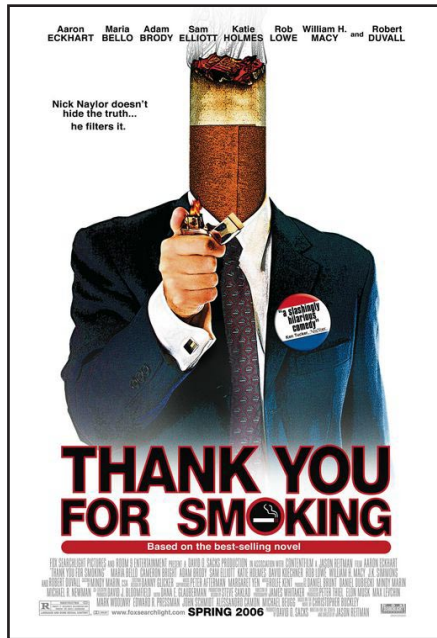
generation and younger but which at the end of the day is a lame, impotent position to occupy: at the end of the movie, Nick Naylor is still a hero. Though he's left Big Tobacco at just the right time, though he's the Jerry Maguire of the lobbying industry, though he still shines bright in his son's eyes, the fact is, he

is someone with tremendous "moral flexibility," and the film asks you to love him for that.

"Michael Jordan plays ball. Charles Manson kills people. I talk. Everyone has a talent," Nick tells us at the end of the film. But what does this mean? Are all talents equal? Just because we find we're good at something, and it's lucrative, does that mean we pursue it? Does being good at work make us good people? Is there really no difference between right and wrong, between Jordan and Manson?

I know, I know. I'm moralizing here. And there's a possibility that the film is self-reflexive enough that Nick is actually a dupe, the butt of his own cigarette jokes. The film's critique of the political system's posturing shenanigans is right on. But it seems to me the more powerful and troubling message of the film is that the larger culture is corrupt, and will go on being corrupt with or without us, so it's fine for us to be corrupt, too. Ain't nothing we can do—we just are who we are. Nick "just talks." The Nazi technical writers "just" wrote. Engineers "just" design stuff. Right?

Wrong. I'm not okay with those assumptions, and that's why I wasn't won over by this movie. *Thank You for Smoking* is okay entertainment on the surface, but at the end of the day, it's got no substance.



Courtesy impawards.com

Fool's Gold



Brady Quinn:
“I think I can
turn around
the steroids
problem”



Courtesy Wikipedia

This Section Has No Future

Mike Stone
Out of a Job

It is the sad duty of this loyal reporter to announce that starting next year, there will be no Fool's Gold section in your school newspaper. This will be the last issue with any fake content.

The Oredigger staff has been put in a difficult position. The price of ink, just like gasoline, has skyrocketed over the past few years. It is now no longer feasible for the Oredigger to print fake content. It is up to the students to decide what type of news they want: real or fake.

The staff of this newspaper is committed to the cause. They want to bring you the most objective and accurate content that they can to further the expansion of knowledge among our students. If the content isn't true, then the job just gets easier. Why do you think I do this?

There will be a poll on the Oredigger website to see what the

students want. Do you want real news about Governors, sports, and school activities? Or do you have a simpler mind and crave fake news about zombies, Nos, and fireworks?

I'm no expert, but Fool's Gold is the best section in the newspaper. It is SO good it even gets its own article saying how cool it is. Wrap THAT around your head!

The decision to stick with real news came at the threats from Guggenheim of no funding and a place on the ASCSM executive board. No reporter wants that, so we folded quicker than a freshmen text book. There simply isn't enough room in the world for fake AND real news. There is no CNN report on Comedy Central after the Daily Show.

The writers of this section wanted to thank the school for its support and wish everyone well. The situation has gotten so bad that at this point, you can't trust anything you read in this section.



Mike Stone/Oredigger

To solidify symbolically the dismal fate of fake news, a Fool's Gold was set ablaze. Watching it burn stirs the depths of the souls of Fool's Gold "reporters" with passion and anger. Or these people just need to relax and grab a brewski.

Crayola Chalk:

Not what you expect

Adam Freeland
Unjustified Fear of Baking Soda

Crayola was audited by the IRS last year for some substantial accounting discrepancies. Their expenditures went drastically down while still bringing in an equivalent amount of profit. It was found that they had stopped buying a potassium rich limestone, the key ingredient in their chalk, from Kazakhstan, in order to boycott Kazakhstan's open anti-Semitism and the extremely low age of consent.

This year, the IRS found, through the Patriot Act, that Tums, owned by AOL Time Warner Microsoft Daimler Chrysler Intel Peabody Pfizer Halliburton, had made a fair sized sale to Crayola, off the books.

The sale was for expired Tums returned to the manufacturer. This return is common for goods that loose their value before being sold (magazines usually have their cov-

ers mailed back to the distributor for a refund with the promise that the magazines will be destroyed). After 3 weeks of research, consuming nearly all of the IRS resources, they found out that the Tums were being recycled into Crayola Color Chalk.

It made too much sense; cut out Kazakhstan and its superior potassium for a cheaper American by-product. It also explained the recent recession of childhood acid in digestion (CAID), as most children who suffer from CAID will eat anything, even chalk.

This news has sparked a widespread investigation by the IRS as Chalk is not a food and lies outside the jurisdiction of the FDA. It is now believed that Elmer's School Glue is no longer made from horses, but from Mylanta and a trace mount of curdled milk. Most shockingly of all, we have confirmed that Miracle Grow Potting Soil is made from Dirt, and expired Cialis.



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Adam Freeland & Chase Hoffman/Oredigger

Any idiot can see the staggering truth from this simple equation

THE OREDIGGER

Editorials



Editorials Policy

The Oredigger is a designated public forum. Student editors have the authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

oredig@mines.edu

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Hilary Brown, *Features Editor*

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Chris Phillips, *Business Manager*

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The Power of Words

The Importance of Raising a Well-Read Nation

Sara Post
Copy Editor

"I hate reading" "Reading is hard" "I don't want to do work in my free time"

Sound familiar? I'm sure you've heard someone say something to that effect, or said it yourself. Have you ever thought about why that is?

I'm going to admit this right now: I love to read. I've been a hopeless bookworm since the age of six. So I do not understand, at all, what people could hate about reading. Is it boring? Not at all - I have been so absorbed by a book that I haven't had any idea what was going on around me. Is it hard? No, or at least I don't think so - the scenes I create in my mind are more vivid than any movie I have ever seen, and they are effortless, not to mention free. So what is it?

We were all required to take English (or Language Arts, or Literacy) classes, probably starting in middle school or earlier. What happened in those classes?

Well, there were grammar lessons, there were papers, and there were reading assignments. That's right - reading assignments. That doesn't sound strange to you?

Allow me to clarify something: writers do not write so that teachers can ask questions about their work. Writers write because writing is an art, a form of expression unique to those societies that have a written language. Writing accomplishes all the things that music, art, sculpture, and dance have accomplished, all in one act - that of putting pen to paper and examining something. That something could be anything: a scene, a person, an emotion, a moment in time. It is merely the responsibility of the reader to make the words before them into something for themselves. And that is the purpose of art. Make it into something for yourself. Internalize it, if only a little tiny part of it, and carry it with you for

the rest of your life. I'm sure there's something you've seen, or heard, or felt, that you will never forget. If you read something, and you create the image in your mind, and the literature is powerful enough, you will never, ever forget it, because you will have seen it, or heard it, or felt it, in your own head, after reading it on the page. And that is what an author is trying to do - show you what they've imagined, or seen, or felt, and make you imagine it and see it and feel it.

What about that is hard? Much less boring? Maybe it goes back to those English classes. Remember how the teachers used to hand out lists of question, say: "Now, read chapters 2 and 3 by tomorrow," and that was it? We were taught, starting as children, that two chapters were something to be read, regurgitated, and forgotten. Not that a book was as much a piece of artwork as a Picasso, or a Van Gogh, but that it was just like a textbook, something to be studied just because you had to know it, so you could pass the test.

The part that hurts, though, is that students, kids who are taught at the age of six to read, and then taught by the age of fourteen that reading is simply a tool to be used in order to get that all-important A, are never taught how to appreciate the artwork of the written word. In all fairness, for some classes that is true. But for a Literature class? A Language Arts class?

We are an incredibly lucky society - our literacy rate is very high, and the joy of reading is denied to no one. But why raise a nation of children that knows how to read if they don't know how to appreciate what they read? What, I ask you, is the point of having a written alphabet if no one appreciates the beauty of the language? You might as well have endless shades of color and a nation of the blind.

Courtesy Wikipedia

Senior Farewell

Chase Hoffman
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

It's been great four years... really... it has. It hasn't been all sunshine and lollipops, in fact, it's been pretty bumpy. Like many, there have been the all-nighters, the bad grades, the incompetent teammates, and a few ridiculous professors. Outside of school, I've gone through rejections from employers, scholarships, and few girls as well. But, I relish in the high points as well. One of things that has given me a unique advantage has been my work here at The Oredigger. Seeing the Oredigger succeed and fall has shown me that success and failure go hand-in-hand. Sticking to it through all the crap of college, stress, money, and more stress showed me what fruit you can bear from your own hard labors. So with all that said, I want to give you a few morsels of free wisdom.

First is Time Management. It's obvious, I know. But this simply isn't just 1 hour for Calc, 2 hours for Physics, etc. I'm talking about giving yourself time for something to let yourself unwind amongst all the work. If I cook up a decent meal and watch some Sports Center, I feel a little more relaxed. Figure out how much time you need for your homework, add in a healthy break that you know will let you think about something else. And eat during that break. It's so hard to concentrate while you're hungry. Don't put off eating in favor of homework. You will work harder and

more efficiently on a content stomach.

My second piece of advice will gather some criticism. With that said: dating is overrated. You read correctly. Dating is overrated. I'm not saying that you should dump your girlfriend or boyfriend. I'm speaking to that large portion of student body that is single. Don't try too hard. It's not worth all that work and money to impress a girl just to find out that they think "you're so sweet, we would be better as friends." At a school known for working its students hard, the last thing you need is to

"You're paying to learn, so get your money's worth."

worry about what that one blonde thinks of your biceps. Maybe you will meet someone and you two are both really relaxed together and you make a great couple.

Great. I'm not discouraging that. What's important is maintaining your stress level, and adding girls to the equation can throw it off balance.

Lastly, find people that know more and talk to them. Upperclassmen have made all the mistakes that you have or will make. They sometimes wish they did things better and many of them are willing to share that info with you. Professors were college students too. Most of them teach because they like to teach and they want to see you learn. Ask them questions, question their answers, respect their knowledge and take as much of it as you can. You're paying to learn, so get your money's worth.

Good luck on your homework, your finals, and the rest of your college career.

Our President, The Hypocrite

What Bush And Osama Have In Common...

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Entertainment Editor

Anybody else wonder if George W. Bush uses his brain? Or ever has? The condition of the government of this country makes me sick. On one side, we have a party that has decided that what it wants outweighs everything else, and on the other side, we have a party without any direction at all. It makes me think that there's a brain disease that afflicts anyone that sets foot at the Capitol building.

This is not about Iraq, or the economy, or politics, or Halliburton, or the attorney scandals, or "Scooter" Libby, or Karl Rove, or torture at Guantanamo Bay, or any of the other endless fiascos. This is about a man who has sworn TWICE to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Well, ladies and gentlemen, it has been over six years and Bush has not only failed to do so, he has become the very thing he swore to protect the Constitution against: a domestic enemy. A man who has given himself the most preposterous title imaginable, "The Decider," hardly has a place in a representative democracy like the United States.

Mr. Bush would be better suited to a country that would allow him to be the chief decision-maker on every issue, for example, Cuba, or Colombia, or China. Earth to George, come in George! You have succeeded in pass-

ing the most fraudulent limitation of individual rights in the history of the nation in the USA PATRIOT Act. You have succeeded in advocating torture and wiretapping on U.S. citizens without significant protest. You have also succeeded in abolishing the writ of Habeas Corpus through the Military Commissions Act, a piece of legislation that several Congressmen have called unconstitutional. How do you fancy yourself, Mr. Bush? Either you are truly incompetent, or you value your legacy more than your country.

September 11, 2001 was possibly the most threatening and dangerous day in our nation's history. What physically happened that day in New York City, Washington D.C., in Pennsylvania, and all across the nation pales in comparison to the psychological danger that that day inflicted. The United States' citizens and its' politicians were faced with an incredible challenge: How do you fight an enemy that is everywhere, does not fit a specific mold, and hides in plain sight? We could have stood up in solidarity and refused to be terrorized. Instead, the people and politicians at large failed the challenge.

The goal of terrorism is in the name: to inflict terror. It is NOT to cause damage, or death, or financial loss. Those are effects of the terrorism itself. I am disgusted that our country allowed itself to be terrorized. I am infinitely more disgusted that the President and Vice President continue

to use terrorism as a tool to gain personal and political advantage. Messrs. Bush and Cheney insist on periodically sounding unfounded warnings and wild accusations such as dissent is defeatist. Excuse me? I'm merely repeating what many others have said, but dissent is essential to democracy. Hell, dissent is the reason the United States exists as it does today.

Fear is an incredible weapon. It seizes the individual and inspires him to do anything and everything, no matter how stupid or ridiculous that the action is. Al Qaeda did simply this on that September morning: flew airplanes into three iconic buildings, causing over three thousand people to die and an incredible financial and physical loss. They did not force us to pass the PATRIOT Act, or limit our Constitution, or give the Commander-in-Chief power without the constitutionally-mandated checks and balances. They did not force our politicians to lie and fear-monger for over five years, or go to Iraq, or submit to allowing torture and illegal wiretapping. In fact, the Constitution demands that Congress, working with the Judicial and Executive branches of our government, uphold our freedoms and not bend in the face of adversity.

Terrorism is a catalyst. The difference between a country that fights against terrorism and a country that allows itself to be terrorized is merely the reaction. Osama bin Laden would like nothing more than our government to do his work for him. It's incredibly sad and disheartening and infuriating to see them doing just that.

Duffy's Corner

Kevin Duffy
Staff Writer

As the semester careens towards the finish line, final exams begin to push into the conscience and beg the question, why? As if the students of Colorado School of Mines have not already suffered enough punishment through the semester, the gauntlet again forces us to endure more.

Professors will argue that, in taking a final exam, students gain the comprehensive synthesizing a semesters worth of material. While true enough in theory, reality stands in contradiction. Students will memorize and regurgitate information in order to pass onto the next level of torture. Those who do take the exercise seriously will forget their miraculous education experience over the break of a long summer.

Administrative and educational officials alike know this and yet still insist on the practice. Why, you might ask? It simply perpetuates the aura of elitism that so many individuals find themselves inflicted with upon graduation. CSM is academically difficult for the sake of being difficult. Final exams are but one of numerous hoops we jump through to validate the prestige that comes with our degree.

Does this grandstanding have merit, or is it simply chauvinism? Obviously we came to Mines because of the reputation, but many of us did not expect to encounter pure ridiculousness. It is possible to keep high standards in the in-

stitution without following policies simply for history's sake. Honest dialogue and debate is warranted.

No one is arguing the final exams should be abolished, just reexamined. Some students purpose the notion of a "final bench mark," if you will. Essentially professors could set a grade percentage, based on the difficulty of the course, which students would aim for throughout the semester. If an individual averaged above that mark before the scheduled final, they would be exempt.

This seemingly radical proposition is already in place in some courses on a trial basis. Dr. Brad Herrick's Chemistry II course offered a similar policy in the spring of '06. Students were told that if they averaged 90% on the three common hour exams, they would be excused from the final. In many ways, this encouraged diligent commitment throughout the semester so students would not have to worry about rummaging through a semesters worth of notes in order to pass the course.

In the meantime, however, finals will come and foster the panic of high-stakes testing. After being a Mines student long enough, these events blend together with the scenery of everyday life. We will complain about finals through dead week as we vigorously review. We will perform our bizarre test-taking rituals on the day of. Most importantly, we will celebrate the accomplishment, forcing us to consider that there very well may a method to the madness that is CSM.

Letters To The
Editor? Visit
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How Can God Let Tragedies Happen?

Chris Phillips
Business Manager

I've seen a lot of things happen during my short time on this earth. Some of the more memorable times, for good or bad, have been when tragedy struck. These tragedies have had a number of causes, with humans and nature being the most prominent.

As I sat listening to the news on Monday, it was pretty hard to believe - 32 (maybe more) people dead, a shooter who had killed himself, and a tragedy that had already been labeled the worst shooting spree in U.S. history. There are many questions that come to mind at times like this - "What happened?", "Why did this happen?", etc. There is always one that comes up and is perhaps one of the most chilling questions to touch the human soul - "How could God, if God exists, let something like this happen?" Let's explore this question from the human-caused side of things.

There are many "standard" answers to this question that I've heard that always show up. These include, "God was angry," "God wanted to teach all

of us a lesson but wasn't really angry," "God doesn't care about us," and, as Jim Carrey said in Bruce Almighty, "God is a mean kid with a magnifying glass." These are natural reactions that often come forth shortly after the fact, and are often dismissed fairly quickly by the American mainstream as more information becomes available. As law enforcement personnel find answers to such things as motive, opportunity, and what the actual chain of events was, we are often given a tale that is encompassed by that which many of us are taught is not a part of God - hatred, manipulation, deceit, etc.

Although these tales are gripping, the question still hasn't left us. The question can evolve into many different forms. The one that I'm most familiar is, "Why didn't God stop this person if they were going to do something like this?"

The answer to this question may come as a shock - Love. That's right, love is why God doesn't stop these things. Free will is a very common belief within theology, and these acts were an act of free will on some level. I feel that free will is one

of the greatest gifts of love that we as humans have been given, and, like all gifts, it can be used to do immense good or immense evil. Unfortunately, some people use it to do the latter. I also hold the sincere belief that God did not want this event to occur and that there was some sort of battle going on deep inside of the shooter. Whether or not he was in a state of mind to acknowledge or feel this battle we will never know, and that's a question that I don't feel will ever be answered on this side of death. However, the fact still remains that God loved the shooter enough to allow him to choose to perform these actions.

So, dear readers, I invite you to go forth and remember the gifts that we have been given. Remember that free will gives you the choice of how to use them. I would encourage you to follow a quote that was given to me by my high school principal, "Do Right, Be Kind." Although we may never truly understand this tragedy, we can go forward with the idea that with our choices we can make the world better not only through ourselves but also through those who are touched by our lives.

Dear Editor,

Kudos to the CSM Sustainability Committee for organizing such broad, thought-provoking events for "Climate Action Days" which allow our community to interface with a wide range of experts, reflect on the issues, and begin formulating practical avenues for ACTION. I'm continually impressed by the way many students are willing to carve out some time during their overloaded academic lives to volunteer, organize, educate, engage in the world beyond their textbooks and tests. The students and faculty at CSM have MUCH to offer in the arena of international discussion and policy-making on climate change and sustainability. It's exciting to see our campus stepping up to the plate.

Sincerely,
Diane Witters



The Oredigger Staff. Bottom (Left to Right): Sara Post, Hilary Brown, Bruce Bugbee, Mike Stone, Lily Giddings. Top (Left to Right): Jason Fish, Shaemus Gleason, Zach Aman, Chase Hoffman, Andrew Aschenbrenner. (Not Pictured: Chris Phillips, Adam Freeland, Katie Kocman, Konrad Klett, Scott Bromley, Kevin Duffy,)

To the Colorado School of Mines Community;

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for a wonderful year. Many new members have joined our staff and our distribution has grown by over thirty percent. It has been our goal to bring you a diverse selection of content that draws from local, state-wide, national, and international arenas.

While you are considering your schedules for next year, we urge you to take a look at The Oredigger. We are the only student organization on campus that offers training in graphical design, editing, and journalistic writing. As we progress, we see that this training is becoming increasingly important for the professional engineer.

In the upcoming academic year, we will have the pleasure of offering you The Oredigger on a weekly basis. For The Oredigger to continue to bring high-quality journalism to the students of Mines, we will need the help of dedicated student writers. Please consider joining our team next year – it's a tremendous amount of fun!

Sincerely,
The Oredigger Staff

BBQ to Benefit the NTAF Midwest/West Spinal Cord Injury Fund in Honor of Rob Miller

Rob Miller has worked at CSM since 9/98 for Plant Facilities custodial service and grounds crew, prior to that he worked on campus for Aramark – as a food service worker in the food court. Many know him by his warm personality, great laugh and huge smile. Rob loves being outdoors, fishing and watching the Avalanche play. He has been generous with his time -- volunteering at the CSM food drive and helping deliver food boxes to families.



On January 27th Rob was in a very serious car accident. As a result of the accident he incurred life altering injuries. He has now moved to Craig hospital for the next step in his journey of rehabilitation. Please join us on Thursday, April 26 at a BBQ to celebrate his great strength and courage during this time.

What: Benefit BBQ and raffle/silent auction to benefit Rob Miller
When: Thursday, April 26 – 11:00 – 2:00
Where: Kafadar Commons

Tickets will be available at the BBQ for a cost of \$5.00. Either a raffle or silent auction will be held in conjunction with the BBQ. In addition live entertainment will be performed. All proceeds will go to help offset Rob's expenses. You may also make a donation directly to the fund set up for Rob at:

NTAF Midwest/West Spinal Cord Injury Fund
In honor of Rob Miller
NTAF 120 N Radnor Chester Road, Suite F-120
Radnor, PA 19087
Forms will also be available at the barbeque
If you have any questions please contact: Michelle Padilla @ 303-273-3528 or Jeb Martin @ 303-718-2908



The Oredigger would like to extend a special thank you to Chase Hoffman and Andrew Ferguson, who provided us with many excellent photos of the E-Days 2007 events!






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